

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-55 (canceled).

56. (new) An apparatus for receiving a plurality of packets having the same contents sent from another apparatus through a plurality of physical lines that connect between the apparatus and the another apparatus, comprising:

a line controller that controls packet flow over the plurality of physical lines;

a plurality of mode flags, each mode flag associated with one of the plurality of physical lines, and for respectively storing either a primary or a secondary mode therein;

a plurality of storage areas that store received packets;

a plurality of line receivers receiving the plurality of packets having the same contents sent from the another apparatus through the plurality of physical lines; wherein at least one of the plurality of line receivers delivers received packets from one of the plurality of storage areas for forwarding if a mode flag corresponding to the at least one of the plurality of line receivers has a primary mode stored therein;

a receiving line switching unit that monitors a presence of a failure of one of the plurality of physical lines corresponding to one of the plurality of mode flags storing a primary mode therein, and when a failure is detected, changes the one of the plurality of mode flags storing the primary mode therein to a secondary mode; and changes another of the plurality of mode flags storing the secondary mode therein to a primary mode; and thereupon

compares each received packet stored in the received packet storage area corresponding to the mode flag changed to the secondary mode and each received packet stored in the received packet storage area corresponding to the mode flag changed to the primary mode; and receives a received packet equivalent to each packet lost due to the failure.

57. (new) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein the line controller controls the plurality of physical lines in a first layer (physical layer) of an OSI reference model.

58. (new) The receiving apparatus of claim 56 wherein each of the plurality of line receivers abandons received packets if a mode flag corresponding to the at least one of the plurality of line receivers has a secondary mode stored therein.

59. (new) The apparatus of claim 56 wherein a protocol processor performs a protocol process in a third layer or higher of an OSI reference model.

60. (new) The receiving apparatus of claim 56 further comprising a receiving line switching unit that monitors a presence of a failure of one of said plurality of physical lines corresponding to one of said plurality of mode flags storing a primary mode therein, and when a failure is detected, changes said one of said plurality of mode flags storing said primary mode therein to a secondary mode; and changes another of said plurality of mode flags storing said secondary mode therein to a primary mode.

61. (new) An apparatus for receiving a plurality of packets having the same contents sent from another apparatus through a plurality of physical lines that connect between the apparatus and the another apparatus, comprising:

- a line controller that controls packet flow over the plurality of physical lines;
- a plurality of mode flags, each mode flag associated with one of the plurality of physical lines, and for respectively storing either a primary or a secondary mode therein;

- a plurality of storage areas that store received packets;
- a plurality of line receivers receiving the plurality of packets having the same contents sent from the another apparatus through the plurality of physical lines; wherein at least one of the plurality of line receivers delivers received packets from one of the plurality of storage areas for forwarding if a mode flag corresponding to the at least one of the plurality of line receivers has a primary mode stored therein; and

- a receiving line switching unit that monitors a presence of a failure of one of the plurality of physical lines corresponding to one of the plurality of mode flags storing a primary mode therein, and when a failure is detected, changes the one of the plurality of mode flags storing the primary mode therein to a secondary mode; and changes another of the plurality of mode flags storing the secondary mode therein to a primary mode; and thereupon

- compares each received packet stored in the received packet storage area corresponding to the mode flag changed to the secondary mode and each received packet

stored in the received packet storage area corresponding to the mode flag changed to the primary mode.

62. (new) The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the line controller controls the plurality of physical lines in a first layer (physical layer) of an OSI reference model.

63. (new) The receiving apparatus of claim 61 wherein each of the plurality of line receivers abandons received packets if a mode flag corresponding to the at least one of the plurality of line receivers has a secondary mode stored therein.

64. (new) The apparatus of claim 61 wherein a protocol processor performs a protocol process in a third layer or higher of an OSI reference model.

65. (new) The receiving apparatus of claim 61 further comprising a receiving line switching unit that monitors a presence of a failure of one of said plurality of physical lines corresponding to one of said plurality of mode flags storing a primary mode therein, and when a failure is detected, changes said one of said plurality of mode flags storing said primary mode therein to a secondary mode; and changes another of said plurality of mode flags storing said secondary mode therein to a primary mode.